

City, Missouri. Ms. Sanders has been named one of the two top youth volunteers in Missouri for 2004 in the ninth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This is an extraordinary honor; more than 20,000 young people across the country were considered for recognition this year. The Prudential Spirit of Community Award was designed to emphasize the importance our Nation places on service to others, and to encourage young Americans of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities.

Brittany was nominated by St. Charles. Borromeo Parish School in Oakview, Missouri. As a seventh grader at St. Charles Borromeo Parish School, she organized a youth service club in honor of her best friend who died from brain cancer. Brittany began with small projects on her own, donating her birthday and Christmas gifts to sick children, cleaning up her block, collecting canned goods for a food pantry, and volunteering. "Kristin's Kids Club" has grown from 10 to 400 members, and has undertaken a wide range of community service projects.

Brittany developed a newsletter and Web site to support the club's activities, and is now spending a lot of time and effort starting similar groups in other cities and States. She has raised thousands of dollars for a variety of causes, such as the poor children of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending this exemplary young lady for her dedication to community. Brittany is an outstanding role model and an exceptionally fine asset to the Sixth District of Missouri. I am proud of her and wish her well in any future endeavor she chooses.

TRIBUTE TO ELVIN R. CALDWELL,
SR.

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life of a distinguished public servant, Elvin R. Caldwell, Sr. This remarkable gentleman merits both our recognition and esteem as his impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service has moved our community forward and thereby, improved the lives of our people.

For Elvin Caldwell Sr., passion for social justice was not defined by the fanfare of public life. His passion was of lasting import. It was tempered by his calm bearing, firm resolve and a steady discipline which shaped civic accomplishments of immeasurable value to our community. Elvin Caldwell possessed the rare ability to transform the promise of equal justice and fair treatment into practicable reality and our lives have truly been enriched by his presence among us.

During his formative years in Denver, Caldwell knew both the racism and exclusion prevalent during the 1920's and 30's. At a young age, he participated in protest marches with his parents and the adversity he experienced forged a resolve and commitment to civil liberties that would sustain him through life's challenges. He recalled that "Denver was a very prejudiced city at one time . . . I used to watch my father—no matter how tired he

was—stand out there . . . [and] I realized that I had a debt to pay for what [he] fought to achieve." Elvin Caldwell Sr. made good on that commitment and built a legacy in which we take great pride.

He graduated from East High School in Denver and earned a track scholarship to the University of Colorado. Caldwell later married "Frankie" Harriett Webb and his marriage lasted for 60 years and produced four children. By 1950, he was a successful accountant and a member of the State legislature. He served three terms in the Colorado House of Representatives, but the barriers to passing progressive legislation proved to be considerable. In 1955, Caldwell chose to take on six primary opponents in a city council race and at the age of thirty-one, he became the first African American elected to the Denver City Council. He was elected council president five times and his tenure proved to be one that was defined by resourcefulness and statesmanship. Caldwell entered city government at a time when institutionalized discrimination was the norm. Qualified African American police officers couldn't climb through the ranks, there were no black judges, and the fire department was segregated—African Americans could only serve at one fire station. These deplorable conditions set in motion Caldwell's plan for change—to rid the civil service system of practices that either marginalized African American firefighters and police officers or excluded racial minorities from public service. City government needed to be opened up and Caldwell was up to the challenge.

Change did not come swiftly but the road to a more equitable society is never easy. He knew that change is unsettling and over the next decade, Caldwell's quiet persistence overcame obstacles and got things done. Even in the face of threats and militant confrontation by groups such as the Black Panthers, Caldwell remained courteous and unflappable. He once mused that "On life's journey, it's better if you can resolve things in a calm, sensible manner . . . It may take longer, but you can usually get more done."

Caldwell's leadership in city council created formal recruitment programs to bring more minorities into Denver's public safety departments and through his perseverance and skill, the State's first Fair Employment Practices Act was made law. He became a potent force in helping to revitalize the Five Points area and helped establish the Eastside Neighborhood Health Center as well as the Five Points Community Center.

His career on city council lasted twenty-five years and after seven terms, former Denver Mayor William McNichols appointed Caldwell Manager of Safety, making him the first African American to sit in a mayoral cabinet. He served on numerous community, State and national organizations including the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He is credited for opening doors for other African American leaders including former Mayor Wellington E. Webb and City Council President Elbra Wedgeworth. In 1990, the Denver City Council created the Elvin R. Caldwell Community Service Plaza and on April 26, 2003, the City and County of Denver named the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in recognition of his lifetime of service to our community.

Recently, his portrait was hung in the library to honor him as a modest and dignified public

servant who left a powerful legacy of social progress. Truly, we are all diminished by the passing of this remarkable gentleman. Please join me in paying tribute to Elvin R. Caldwell, Sr. His life was rich in consequence and his deeds serve as an inspiration to us all. The values, leadership and commitment he exhibited during his life set the mark and compel us to continue the work that distinguishes us as a nation.

HONORING THE POLISH AMERICAN
CONGRESS OHIO DIVISION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate their 55th anniversary—sharing their cultural gifts along a parade route lined with food, song and joyous celebration.

On May 18, 1949, in Cleveland, Ohio, the Ohio Division of The Polish American Congress was founded. The Polish American Congress is composed of individuals of Polish ancestry as well as Polish organizations. The group serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Taking a positive stand on issues concerning the people of Poland, the group strives to attain a free market economy within the framework of a democratic society.

The goal of The Polish American Congress is to make Americans of Polish heritage more successful U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. In addition, the group supports fraternal, professional, religious, and civic associations dedicated to the improvement of the status of all Americans of Polish heritage.

It is evident that the Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of service has been an invaluable contribution to the City of Cleveland and beyond.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the leaders and members of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate fifty-five years of promotion and guardianship of the heritage, history and culture of their beloved Polish homeland—providing awareness and connection to every new generation born in America, and enriching the diverse fabric of our entire Cleveland community.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CITY OF SESSER,
IL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like my colleagues to join me in honoring the centennial of one of the oldest communities in my congressional district, Sesser, Illinois.

Sesser's beginnings have a close relationship to the coal mining industry in southern Illinois. T. C. Keller came to Sesser from Indiana